

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments have been made to remove multiple claim dependencies, and to otherwise put the claims in the preferred U.S. format.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, please contact the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application No. Unassigned
Attorney's Docket No. 000510-011
Mark-up of Claims - Page 1

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Marked-Up Claims

1. (Amended) [Method] A method of hydroentangling polymer fibers to manufacture a nonwoven fabric, [characterized in that] comprising imparting to the polymer [fiber] fibers, at the moment of hydroentangling, [is imparted] a temperature equal to or exceeding the glass transition temperature (T_g) of the polymer fiber and being less than the melting point of the polymer fiber.
2. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus ≥ 50 cN/tex, at room temperature.
3. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus ≥ 100 cN/tex, at room temperature.
4. (Amended) Method according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus of 100-2000 cN/tex[, especially 500-1500 cN/tex, more particularly 200-750 cN/tex, and even more particularly 250-600 cN/tex], at room temperature.
5. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the temperature is achieved with the aid of hot or superheated water.

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6. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the temperature is achieved with the aid of IR-heat.

7. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the temperature is achieved with the aid of microwaves.

8. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 1-7, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the polymer fiber has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of $\geq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$.

9. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 1-8, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the polymer fiber has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of $\geq 20\text{-}100^{\circ}\text{C}$ [, especially $50\text{-}70^{\circ}\text{C}$].

10. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 1-9, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the polymer included in the polymer fibers comprises polyester, polylactic acid, polyamide or polypropylene, or copolymers or mixtures thereof.

11. (Amended) [Hydroentangled] A hydroentangled nonwoven fabric obtainable by the method of [any of claims 1-10] claim 1, the fabric comprising polymer fibers, [characterized in that] wherein the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have a glass

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transition temperature (Tg) of 20-100°C and an initial modulus of 200-750 cN/tex at room temperature.

12. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to Claim 11, [characterized in that] wherein the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have an initial modulus of 250-600 cN/tex at room temperature.

13. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to [any of claims 11-12, characterized in that] claim 11, wherein the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 50-70°C.

14. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to [any of claims 11-13, characterized in that] claim 11, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a bulk specific volume of $\geq 8 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

15. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to claim 14, [characterized in that] wherein the nonwoven fabric has a bulk specific volume of 8-15 cm^3/g [, especially 10-15 cm^3/g].

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16. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to [any of claims 11-15,
characterized in that] claim 11, wherein the polymer included in the polymer fibers
comprises polyester, polylactic acid, poly-amide or polypropylene, or copolymers or
mixtures thereof.

17. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to [one of claims 10-15,
characterized in that] claim 11, wherein the polymer included in the polymer fibers
comprises polyester, polylactic acid, poly-amide or polypropylene, or copolymers or
mixtures thereof.